

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Saturday, June 29, 2013
Dr. Dan Peavy's Headwaters Ranch
Highway 1888/Green Kingdom Road
Kendall County

At 10:45 a.m., Kate Johnson introduced Dr. and Mrs. Dan Peavy, owners of the property with the Headwaters of the Blanco River. Dr. Peavy spoke about the springs, land, history, and structures and shared laminated articles. A recorded speech by Janice Woods Windle, who was invited but could not attend the meeting, was played. She had visited the Headwaters property for the filming of "Hill Country." Kate also introduced Rachael Ranft from the Nature Conservancy who is director of Northern Hill Country River Projects. She described their work with public and private land owners to preserve the waterways including the Blanco River. Because of concerns with rapid population growth, the Blanco River Project was formed to serve as a model to demonstrate conservation methods to ensure the quality of Hill Country's water supplies. Kate presented copies of Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges: A History of San Marcos and Hays County to Dr. Peavy, Rachael Ranft, and the Kendall County Historical Commission with inscriptions by Kate. They were also presented copies of "101 Ranch" DVDs.

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by HCHC Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were in attendance: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Lila Knight, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, and Charlie Willis. Also attending were 20 guests including 6 from the Kendall County Historical Commission.

1. **Introductions and Announcements**—Kate announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on July 25 at Kevin Fowler's ranch. More information as to the location, time, etc. would be sent with the agenda before the meeting.

2. **Vote on accepting minutes from April 25, 2013**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes, and Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Motion to accept the minutes was accepted.
3. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen, chairman, thanked all the members for their work on the marker dedication ceremony at Cementerio del Rio on June 16. The success was largely due to Ofelia Vásquez-Philo’s efforts. He reported that he had met with the Texas State intern on cleaning the Abel Ranch cemetery and that she will complete a historical cemetery designation application..
4. **Courthouse and Museum Committee Report**—Linda Coker, chairman, reported that the museum is getting updates, and with help from Richard Kidd, the new graphics and displays are being installed. Artifacts are needed to add to the displays. The event held on June 23 with the San Marcos Heritage Association went extremely well as over 200 people attended the viewing of the “101 Ranch” documentary at the Texas Music Hall and a large number of those enjoyed cobbler and coffee on the courthouse grounds. Because the courthouse was open, many also viewed the museum. Attendance is steady at the museum—some days are better than others. JP Court will be touring on July 17th. Our meeting room is getting used for 5 meetings in June and 4 scheduled for July. The Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Mixer will be held at the courthouse and museum on July 25 from 5:30-7:00. Lon Shell is ordering a plaque for the time capsule. We will have a dedication event when it is installed. The Hays County Employee Appreciation Dinner went well, and Linda thanked all of those who donated to the Hays County Food Bank.
5. **Documentary Committee Report**—Richard Kidd, chairman, explained the purpose of the various documentaries and oral histories produced by the HCHC. He also reported that we sold \$1000 worth of DVDs at the showing of the “101 Ranch” on June 23.
6. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison, chairman, reported on the wonderful dedication of the marker at Cementerio del Rio which was a family reunion as well as Father’s Day. The families who attended were very appreciative of the efforts to clean up the grounds and headstones. The marker application period is closed; the next marker period will open in September. We resubmitted jazz musician Eddie Durham’s application for an Undertold Stories marker—the City of San Marcos is building an Eddie Durham Park where the historical marker will be placed.
7. **Hispanic Committee Report**--Ofelia spoke about the two marker dedications—April 20 for the Southside/Bonham School and Cementerio del Rio on June 16. She described the previous condition of the old Southside School and thanked the McCoy Corp. for donating paint and building materials to restore the appearance. Cementerio del Rio also had a wonderful dedication ceremony—all of the

families were very appreciative of the work that had gone into the cleanup of the grounds and the stones.

8. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate reported that the grass has been mowed and will be maintained. The current focus is on finishing the exterior and beginning the interior of the jail.
9. **Auction Oak and Hanging Oak Report**—Kate described the Auction Oak and Hanging Oak trees and the care that has been given to them for upkeep. The Hanging Oak tree has been tended to with donations from the Kyle Family, the Kyle Cemetery, and HCHC. So far, no water has been needed this summer.
10. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett, chairman, reported that we were sitting under the shade of trees which highlights the importance of trees in our region of Texas. He said that we need to visit with Nature Conservancy about access to landowners' property to examine and measure trees.
11. **Adjourn**—Shelley Henry moved that the meeting adjourn, and Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Theda Sueltenfuss, from the Kendall County Historical Commission, spoke about their commission's various meetings and projects.

Marie Bassett mentioned that Judge Shannon's home near Driftwood was used in the filming of the "True Women" mini-series. Also, when Janice Woods Windle was in the area, she identified one of the people in a picture in the Pound House as Dr. Peter C. Woods.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary



